

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

SSC-01 /068 W

-----171312Z 065417 /53

R 171117Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3061

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UV

SUBJ: COMPOSITION OF NEW VOLTAN GOVERNMENT

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0147

1. THERE ARE NO MEMBERS OF THE FORMER MINORITY PARTY MLN (MOVEMENT DE LIBERATION NATIONALE) IN THE NEW VOLTAN GOVERNMENT WHOSE COMPOSITION WAS ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE JANUARY 13. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR EVENING JANUARY 13, PROFESSOR JOSEPH KI-ZERBO, NOMINAL HEAD OF THE MLN, STATED THAT THE MLN (WHICH HAD SIX MINISTRIES IN LAST GOVERNMENT) HAD HELD OUT FOR FOUR MINISTERS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND HAD REFUSED TO COMPROMISE. KI-ZERBO GAVE IMPRESSION THAT MLN WAS NOT REALLY ANXIOUS TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT OF "NATIONAL UNION" AND PREFERRED TO HAVE FREEDOM OF ACTION IN PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

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2. EIGHT OF THE FORMER MINISTERS HAVE RETAINED THEIR POSITIONS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING ALL THE MILITARY: THEY ARE THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR, JUSTICE, DEFENSE, FINANCE, COMMERCE, PUBLIC WORKS, HEALTH AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS. EXCLUDING THE FOUR MILITARY OFFICERS, A MAJORITY OF THE NEW

MINISTERS ARE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE FORMER MAJORITY PARTY UDV-RDA. AT LEAST TWO ARE MEMBERS OF THE FORMER PRA (PARTI DU REGROUPEMENT AFRICAIN). TWO ARE TECHNOCRATS WITHOUT KNOWN PARTY AFFILIATIONS. THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MOUSSA KARGOUGOU, WHO IS LISTED AS AN INDEPENDENT, IS AN OLD FRIEND OF EX-PRESIDENT MAURICE YAMEOGO. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AT VARIOUS TIMES AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, INTERIOR, AND JUSTICE.

3. US-VOLTAN RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. IF ANTHING, THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS SOMEWHAT MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE. IN TERMS OF AID ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE LOST A GOOD AND COOPERATIVE FRIEND WITH DEPARTURE OF SALIA SANON, FORMER MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. ON OTHER HAND, THE DEPARTURE OF BOUBACAR SOUMANA, FORMER MINISTER OF PLAN WHO WAS RATHER INEFFECTIVE IN HIS JOB, IS NOT LIKELY TO BE REGRETTEED BY THE DONOR COMMUNITY.

4. MANY OF THE NEW MINISTERS ARE UNKNOWN QUANTITIES. WE SHALL SEND IN BIO-DATA ON THEM AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
GRAHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 17-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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